

U.S. Application No.: NEW
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

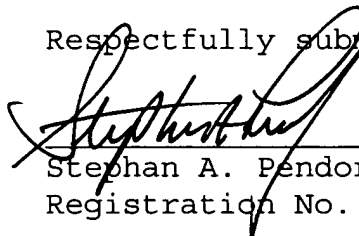
Attorney Docket: 3926.059

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to conform the claims to U.S. requirements, i.e., in order to eliminate multiple dependent claims and claims improperly depending from multiple dependent claims, and to otherwise conform the claims to U.S. practice. Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter is added to the text.

Entry and favorable consideration prior to consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Stephan A. Pendorf
Registration No. 32,665

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Date: **October 24, 2003**

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: **EV330254568US**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: **October 24, 2003**

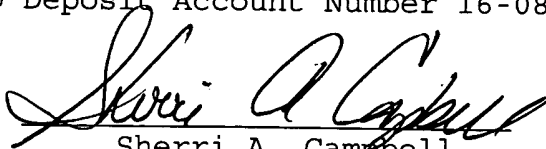
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated and is addressed: **ATTN: Mail Stop: PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any

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additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.


Sherri A. Campbell